

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 5, 8, 9, 12 – 16 and 18 – 26 are pending and rejected.

The applicants' attorney amends claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 14, 18, 21 and 24 not to overcome the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) but to more clearly recite an aspect of the applicants' invention. Furthermore, the amendments do not narrow the claims. The applicant's attorney respectfully disagrees with the examiner's rejection of claims 1 – 5, 8, 9, 12 – 16 and 18 – 26, and respectfully asserts that the claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. David Mason (408-447-4046) or Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 3 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The applicants' attorney respectfully disagrees with the examiner's rejection of claim 1, before the amendment, because U.S. Patent 5,921,422 issued to Hunter *et al.* (Hunter) fails to disclose a coupler for fastening a computer peripheral device to another device.

The applicants' claim 1, before the amendment, recites a coupler that includes a first portion operable to engage a computer peripheral device, and a second portion operable to engage another device.

For example, as shown in FIGS. 1 - 4 and discussed in paragraphs 1, 2 and 10 of the specification, a coupler 32 fastens two peripheral devices (14 and 16 in FIG. 1, and 34 and 36 in FIGS. 2 – 4) together. The first peripheral device 34 may be a wireless receiver that is connected to an interface 50 (FIG. 1) via cable 46. The second peripheral device 36 may be a memory card reader that is connected to the interface 50 (FIG. 1) via cable 48. To couple the two peripheral devices together, the coupler 32 includes a first portion 49 that engages the computer peripheral device 36, a second portion 51 that engages the other peripheral device 34, and a body 38

that joins the portions 49 and 51. When the coupler 32 fastens the peripheral device 36 to the other peripheral device 34, the device 34 is more securely supported by the device 36 than it would be if the device 34 were just placed on top of the device 36.

In contrast, Hunter fails to disclose a coupler for fastening a computer peripheral device to another device. Hunter discloses a flexible stand 108 that attaches together two sides (100 and 102 in FIGS. 1 and 5 – 10) of an enclosure for a single device. The right side 100 of the enclosure is hingedly attached to the left side 102 of the enclosure, and the enclosure is kept closed by a spring clamp 106 and flexible stand 108. Because the right side 100 and left side 102 form the enclosure for the device, neither the right side 100 nor the left side 102 is analogous to a computer peripheral device. Furthermore, because the stand 108 is only attached to a single enclosure, the stand 108 does not include a first portion that engages a computer peripheral device, and a second portion that engages another device to fasten the computer peripheral device to the other device. Therefore, unlike the applicants' claimed coupler, Hunter's flexible stand 108 does not fasten a computer peripheral device to another device.

Claims 2, 3 and 19 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1 as amended.

Rejection of Claims 4, 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 4 is patentable over Hunter for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Hunter.

Claims 5 and 20 is patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 4.

Rejection of Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 8 is patentable over Hunter for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Hunter.

Claims 9, 12 and 13 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 8.

Rejection of Claims 14 – 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 14 is patentable over Hunter for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Hunter.

Claims 15 and 16 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 14.

Rejection of Claims 18, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 18 is patentable over Hunter for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Hunter.

Claims 25 and 26 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 18.

Rejection of Claims 21 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 21 is patentable over Hunter for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1 over Hunter.

Claims 22 – 24 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies from claim 21.

Conclusion

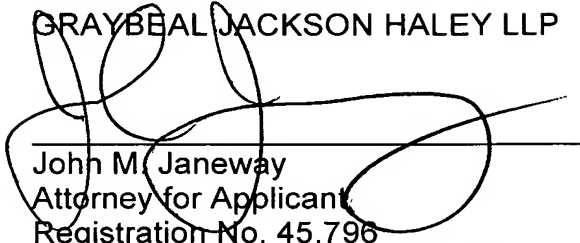
The applicants' attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 1 – 5, 8, 9, 12 – 16 and 18 – 26 and issue an allowance for these claims.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. David Mason (408-447-4046) or Mr. John Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

DATED this 23rd day of January 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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